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Info

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FROM: NEW YORK

TO: Secretary of State

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PRIORITY

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FOR THE SECRETARY

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RE CUBA

PURSUANT DEPTTEL 1165 YOST AND WELLBORN MET THIS MORNING WITH NARASIMHAN, LOUTFI AND RIKHYE ON MODALITIES OF ICRC INSPECTION.

IN REGARD TO VESSELS TO BE USED BY INSPECTORS WE FIRST SUGGESTED US COAST GUARD BUT UN SIDE OBJECTED ON GROUNDS THESE ARE ARMED. THEY WERE HOWEVER WILLING TO ACCEPT US NAVAL TRANSPORTS WHICH WOULD BE UNARMED AND OPERATED BY CIVILIAN CREWS UNDER UN CONTROL AND WOULD PRESUMABLY FLY RED CROSS FLAG. THEY POINTED OUT HOWEVER SOVS MIGHT INSIST ON EITHER SOV OR NEUTRAL VESSELS. WE POINTED OUT IT WOULD DELAY OPERATION SERIOUSLY TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN SUITABLE SOV VESSELS AND THAT, SINCE SOVS ANXIOUS THAT OUR QUARANTINE BE LIFTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THIS ARGUMENT COULD BE USED WITH THEM. WE ALSO POINTED OUT THERE WOULD BE SOME DELAY IN OBTAINING AND EQUIPPING SUITABLE NEUTRAL VESSELS. UN SIDE POINTED OUT VESSELS WOULD HAVE TO BE EQUIPPED WITH LAUNCHES SUITABLE FOR ACCOSTING.

THEY ALSO ASKED THAT WE PROVIDE THEM WITH MATERIAL FOR BRIEFING RED CROSS INSPECTORS ON WHERE TO LOOK AND WHAT TO LOOK FOR.

/ NARASIMHAN

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-2- 1608, NOVEMBER 2, 5 PM, FROM NEW YORK

NARASIMHAN SAID THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS PERSONNEL NEEDS WITH FUEGGER IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS ARRIVAL. IT WAS AGREED TWO TEAMS OF EIGHT EACH ON EACH OF TWO VESSELS WOULD PROBABLY BE SUFFICIENT. UN HAS ALREADY INDICATED TO ICRC THAT APPROXIMATELY 30 PERSONS WOULD BE WANTED AND ICRC HAS RESPONDED RECRUITMENT IS NO PROBLEM. UN WOULD HOPE THEY MIGHT BE RECRUITED AND ARRIVE HERE EARLY NEXT WEEK.

WE GAVE UN MEMO LISTING EIGHT POINTS AT CONCLUSION DEPTCL 1165. ONLY PARA THEY QUESTIONED WAS NR. SEVEN WHICH REFERS TO INSPECTION ALL SHIPS CARRYING CARGO TO CUBA FROM BLOC PORTS. NARASIMHAN POINTED OUT SOVS ABLE TO MAKE COMMITMENTS ONLY CONCERNING THEIR OWN SHIPS, KUZNETSOV HAVING DECLARED THEY COULD NOT EVEN DO SO IN REGARD TO SHIPS CHARTERED TO THEM. KUZNETSOV HAD ADDED HOWEVER THAT IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THEY WOULD NOT SHIP THIS SORT OF WEAPON ON CHARTER VESSELS. NARASIMHAN SAID IT WOULD BE GOOD IF POSSIBLE FOR THE UN TO REQUEST, AND TO ASK IMCO TO NOTIFY, ALL NATIONS WHOSE SHIPS ARE CARRYING CARGO TO CUBA FROM BLOC PORTS TO COMPLY WITH ICRC INSPECTION PROCEDURES. THEY COULD NOT HOWEVER COMPEL COMPLIANCE.

IN REGARD TO FINANCING NARASIMHAN CONTINUED TO ARGUE THAT UN COULD NOT FINANCE THIS OPERATION FROM TWO MILLION DOLLAR PEACE-KEEPING FUND AUTHORIZED BY 1961 GA RES WITHOUT SPECIFIC SC OR GA MANDATE TO DO SO. WHEN WE BROSSSED POINT, HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WOULD CONSULT FURTHER WITH UN COMPTROLLER. HE ALSO PUT FORWARD AGAIN ALTERNATIVE OF JOINT FINANCING BY SOVS AND US, PARTICULARLY SINCE SOVS HAD SUGGESTED OPERATION BY ICRC RATHER THAN BY UN. NARASIMHAN SAID HE WOULD PRESENT THIS TO SOVS BUT FELT SURE THEY WOULD INSIST US SHOULD PAY SINCE THIS INSPECTION IS US, NOT SOV, REQUIREMENT.

NARASIMHAN CONCLUDED THAT HE WOULD MEET WITH MOROZOV THIS AFTERNOON AND LET US KNOW PROMPTLY RESULT OF THIS MEETING.

STEVENSON

COT

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